

Alabama All-State Jazz Band Audition Requirements 2025-2026
Middle School Band
Piano

1. Scales (10 Points Total - 1 point for each Scale, 1 point for each Arpeggio)

Students should perform the following scales and arpeggios as shown on the second and third page of this document. These can also be found through the ABA website. Scales should be played in a SWING STYLE, HANDS TOGETHER in the order listed below. Each scale and arpeggio listed are in CONCERT PITCH.

- Bb Major Scale
- Bb Major Arpeggio
- Bb Blues Scale
- Eb Major Scale
- Eb Major Arpeggio
- Eb Blues Scale
- C Dorian Scale
- C Dorian Arpeggio
- F Blues Scale
- F Minor Pentatonic Scale

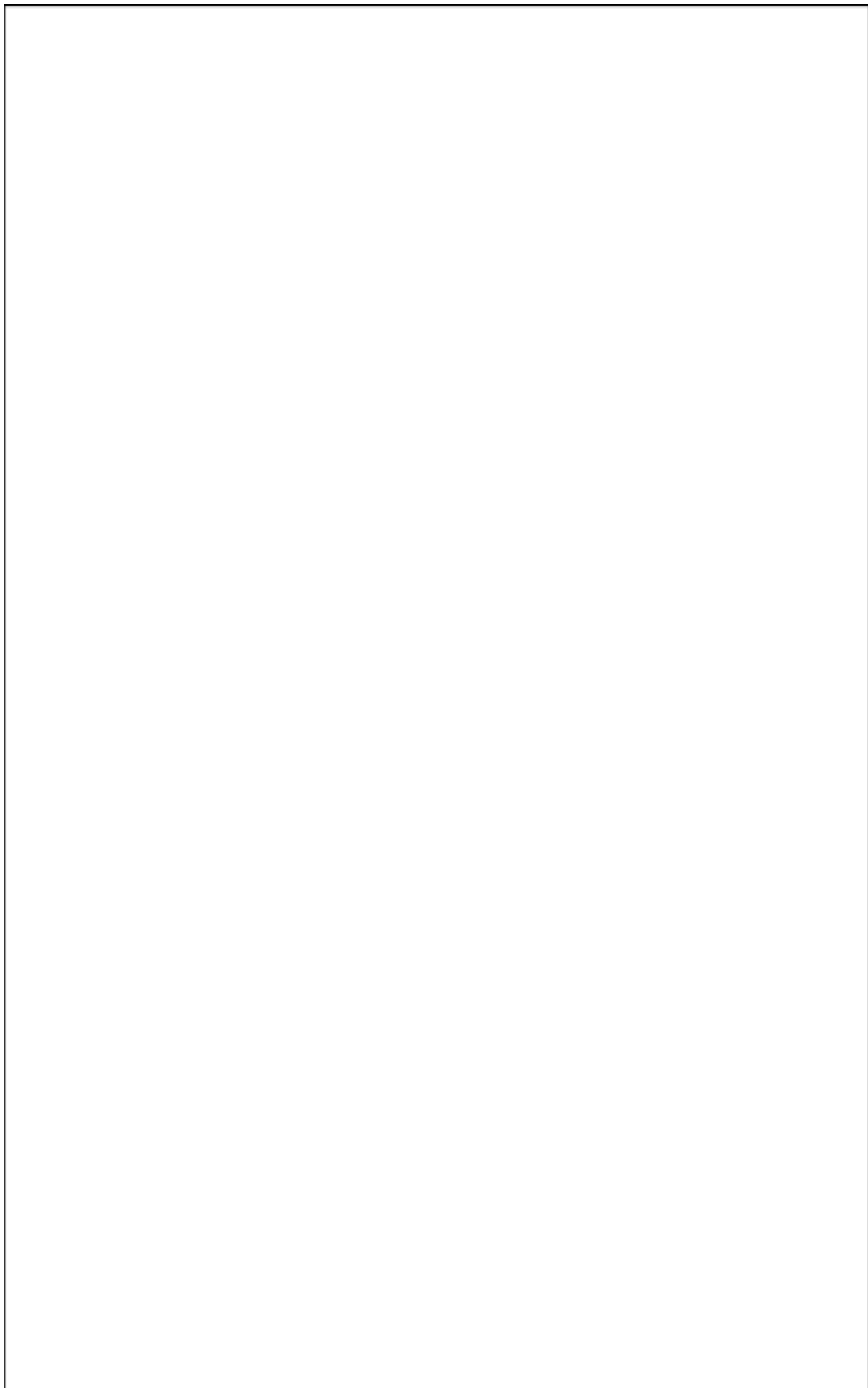
2. Etude (40 Points)

The Middle School Etude II is available on the fourth page of this document and through the ABA website. A full ensemble recording with Finale midi instruments is available for practice purposes through the ABA website, but the Finale midi recording should not be used during the audition recording.

3. Play-A-Long (50 Points Total - 15 for Melody, 15 for Comping, 20 for Improvisation over chords)

Watermelon Man which can be found in: *Volume 54: Maiden Voyage, Play-A-Long Book and CD Set* by Jamey Aebersold. New Albany, IN: Jamey Aebersold Jazz. ISBN: 978-1-56224-212-1. www.jazzbooks.com. This book contains the tunes for all instruments and is not instrument specific. Students should use the C Treble section of the book. Students should record themselves playing along with the accompaniment. This track has stereo separation where the piano is only in the right channel. Turn the right channel down when playing along with the recording so that there is no interference. The backtrack is available through purchase of this book. A pre-set backtrack for PIANO is available through the Google Drive folder with these requirements.

With the Backtrack for PIANO, play three times: play the melody one time, comp second time (use the chord symbols to play the written chords), and improvise the third time over written chords (1st time melody, 2nd time comping, 3rd time improvisation over written chords). The improvisation on Watermelon Man can be done using either the F blues scale (concert pitch) or the F minor pentatonic scale (which is the F blues scale minus the 4th note) throughout. Students should seek out recordings to listen for style and improvisation models.



Piano

MS All-State Jazz Scales

SWING

♩ = 120

Bb Major Scale

Bb Major Arpeggio

Piano

Two systems of piano accompaniment for the Bb Major Scale and Bb Major Arpeggio. The first system shows the scale ascending and descending in both treble and bass staves. The second system shows the Bb Major Arpeggio (Bb, D, F) ascending and descending in both staves. The tempo is marked SWING at 120 beats per minute.

Bb Blues Scale

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for the Bb Blues Scale. The scale is shown ascending and descending in both treble and bass staves. The notation includes blue notes (flattened 3rd and 7th degrees) and a final cadence.

5

Eb Major Scale

Eb Major Arpeggio

Pno.

Two systems of piano accompaniment for the Eb Major Scale and Eb Major Arpeggio. The first system shows the scale ascending and descending in both treble and bass staves. The second system shows the Eb Major Arpeggio (Eb, G, Bb) ascending and descending in both staves.

7

Eb Blues Scale

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for the Eb Blues Scale. The scale is shown ascending and descending in both treble and bass staves. The notation includes blue notes (flattened 3rd and 7th degrees) and a final cadence.

11

MS All-State Jazz Scales, Piano, p. 2

C Dorian Scale

C Dorian Arpeggio

Pno.

13

13

This section contains two musical exercises for piano. The first exercise is the C Dorian Scale, shown in two parts: an ascending scale in the right hand and a descending scale in the left hand, spanning measures 13 to 16. The second exercise is the C Dorian Arpeggio, also in two parts: an ascending arpeggio in the right hand and a descending arpeggio in the left hand, spanning measures 17 to 20. The piano is indicated by 'Pno.' on the left.

F Blues Scale

Pno.

17

17

This section contains the F Blues Scale, shown in two parts: an ascending scale in the right hand and a descending scale in the left hand, spanning measures 17 to 20. The piano is indicated by 'Pno.' on the left.

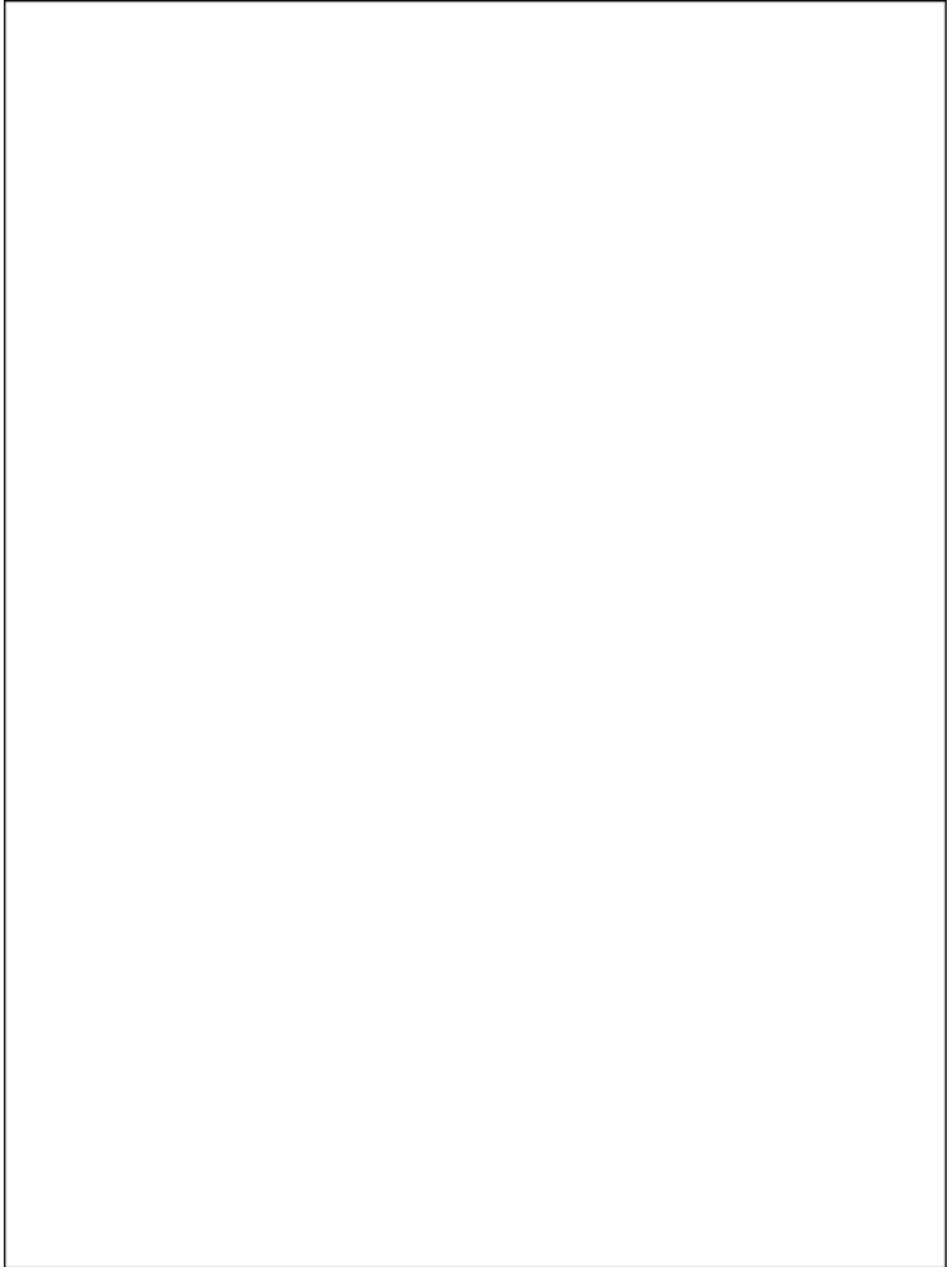
F Minor Pentatonic Scale

Pno.

19

19

This section contains the F Minor Pentatonic Scale, shown in two parts: an ascending scale in the right hand and a descending scale in the left hand, spanning measures 19 to 22. The piano is indicated by 'Pno.' on the left.



PIANO

MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITION ETUDE II

RON GOLDSTEIN

SWING

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12

Chords: F9, Bb9, F9, Bb9, Bb9, F9, Gm7, F9, Am7Ab13, Gm7, C7, F13